



Belize

Rapid Mobile Phone Surveys (RaMPS) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and COVID-19

January, 2022

The Rapid Mobile Phone Survey (RaMPS) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and COVID-19 in Belize was conducted to understand people's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors about COVID-19 and to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs and mental health.

The computer-assisted telephone interview survey was based on a sample of 2,002 adults age 18 and older and employed random-digit-dialing (RDD) methods to produce key indicators stratified by sex. A total of 6,452 mobile phone numbers were dialed, of which 3,345 mobile phone users were contacted, and yielded 2,002 interviews. The cooperation rate* was 59.9%. Data were collected between December 18, 2021 and January 23, 2022.

Behavioral impact of COVID-19	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who avoided social contact or practiced social distancing in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	81.5	(79.8-83.2)	78.8	(76.2-81.4)	84.1	(81.8-86.5)
Sometimes	15.4	(13.8-17.0)	16.8	(14.4-19.1)	14.1	(11.9-16.3)
Never	3.1	(2.3-3.9)	4.4	(3.1-5.8)	1.8	(1.0-2.6)
Percentage who avoided public places in the last 2 weeks:	59.3	(57.1-61.6)	55.3	(52.1-58.6)	63.2	(60.1-66.3)
Percentage who avoided public transport in the last 2 weeks:	62.8	(60.1-65.6)	57.4	(53.3-61.5)	67.5	(63.8-71.1)
Percentage who used a mask or chinstrap when they left home in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	92.8	(91.6-94.0)	92.8	(91.0-94.5)	92.9	(91.3-94.6)
Sometimes	5.6	(4.6-6.7)	5.3	(3.8-6.7)	6.0	(4.5-7.6)
Never	1.5	(0.9-2.1)	2.0	(1.0-2.9)	1.0	(0.4-1.7)

Living conditions during COVID-19	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Impact on work or job:						
Lost job permanently	20.6	(18.7-22.4)	18.7	(16.1-21.3)	22.4	(19.7-25.1)
Lost job temporarily	26.8	(24.8-28.8)	32.1	(29.0-35.2)	21.6	(18.9-24.3)
No impact on their work or was retired or out of the workforce	52.6	(50.3-54.9)	49.2	(45.9-52.5)	56.0	(52.8-59.2)
Impact on income:						
Reduced income	64.6	(62.5-66.8)	64.0	(61.0-67.1)	65.2	(62.2-68.3)
Increased income	3.8	(2.9-4.7)	3.9	(2.6-5.2)	3.8	(2.5-5.0)
No impact on their work or was retired or out of the workforce	31.5	(29.4-33.6)	32.1	(29.1-35.0)	31.0	(28.0-34.0)

COVID-19 prevention media sources	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who think official prevention messages have influenced behavior changes that protects against COVID-19	80.3	(78.5-82.1)	78.7	(76.0-81.3)	82.0	(79.5-84.4)
Most trusted source of information to change behavior related to COVID-19:						
Ministry of Health	52.2	(49.9-54.5)	48.3	(45.1-51.6)	56.0	(52.8-59.2)
Religious community	3.6	(2.7-4.5)	3.8	(2.5-5.1)	3.4	(2.2-4.6)
Friends and family	11.4	(10.0-12.8)	11.4	(9.4-13.4)	11.4	(9.3-13.5)
Community leader	1.7	(1.2-2.3)	1.7	(0.9-2.5)	1.8	(0.9-2.7)
Independent medical societies	3.6	(2.7-4.5)	4.0	(2.7-5.3)	3.2	(2.1-4.4)
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization	19.5	(17.7-21.4)	21.3	(18.7-24.2)	17.7	(15.3-20.3)
None	6.2	(5.1-7.3)	7.6	(5.8-9.3)	4.9	(3.6-6.2)
Another source	1.7	(1.2-2.3)	1.9	(1.1-2.7)	1.6	(0.8-2.4)
Main media source for COVID-19 prevention information:						
Television	15.8	(14.2-17.5)	17.2	(14.7-19.6)	14.5	(12.2-16.8)
Radio	15.9	(14.2-17.7)	13.9	(11.6-16.2)	18.0	(15.5-20.5)
Websites	5.6	(4.6-6.7)	6.4	(4.9-7.9)	4.9	(3.6-6.2)
WhatsApp	5.0	(4.0-6.0)	6.4	(4.9-8.0)	3.6	(2.3-4.8)
Social media	54.9	(52.7-57.1)	53.0	(49.9-56.2)	56.8	(53.7-59.9)
None	1.5	(0.9-2.0)	1.8	(1.0-2.7)	1.1	(0.4-1.8)
Other	1.2	(0.7-1.7)	1.2	(0.5-1.9)	1.2	(0.5-1.9)

Access to services	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who needed mental health services because of the COVID-19 pandemic	17.7	(16.0-19.5)	15.0	(12.7-17.3)	20.4	(17.8-23.0)
Among those who needed mental health services because of the COVID-19 pandemic, percentage who consulted mental health services	46.4	(41.0-51.8)	45.8	(37.5-54.1)	46.8	(39.7-53.9)
Percentage who were told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood pressure or hypertension	17.9	(16.2-19.7)	13.4	(11.2-15.6)	22.4	(19.7-25.0)
Among those diagnosed with hypertension, percentage who use medication for hypertension	60.1	(54.7-65.6)	55.6	(46.5-64.7)	62.8	(56.1-69.6)
Among those diagnosed who use hypertension medication, percentage who had to stop using it during the pandemic	20.2	(14.3-26.1)	21.0	(10.7-31.2)	19.8	(12.6-27.1)
Percentage who were told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood sugar or diabetes	8.7	(7.4-10.0)	7.2	(5.5-8.9)	10.2	(8.2-12.2)
Among those diagnosed with diabetes, percentage who use medication for diabetes management	72.9	(65.8-80.0)	68.1	(56.1-80.0)	76.3	(67.8-84.8)
Among those diagnosed who use diabetes medication, percentage who had to stop using it during the pandemic	12.1	(6.0-18.2)	7.2	(0.2-14.1)	15.2	(6.4-23.9)

COVID-19 vaccine receptivity	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who were vaccinated against COVID-19	86.8	(85.2-88.3)	86.0	(83.8-88.2)	87.5	(85.4-89.6)
Among those unvaccinated, percentage who would get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available today:	35.1	(29.3-40.8)	36.3	(28.2-44.5)	33.7	(25.6-41.8)
Among those unvaccinated who would get a vaccine if it were available today, percentage who would receive it:						
As soon as possible	64.4	(54.8-74.1)	65.8	(52.4-79.1)	62.9	(49.0-76.8)
Plan to wait	35.6	(25.9-45.2)	34.2	(20.9-47.6)	37.1	(23.2-51.0)
Among those unvaccinated who would get a vaccine if it were available today, percentage who would prefer to get it at:						
Government hospital	42.0	(32.2-51.8)	46.8	(33.1-60.5)	36.4	(22.4-50.4)
Private hospital	23.3	(14.7-31.8)	24.1	(11.9-36.3)	22.3	(10.5-34.1)
Health center	27.8	(18.7-36.9)	19.7	(8.0-31.4)	37.4	(23.4-51.3)
Pharmacy	4.0	(0.1-7.8)	5.7	(0.0-12.0)	2.0	(0.0-5.8)
Other	2.9	(0.0-6.2)	3.7	(0.0-8.8)	2.0	(0.0-5.8)
Among those unvaccinated who would not get a vaccine if it were available today, main reason why they would not get it:						
Do not think it is safe	18.8	(12.6-25.0)	19.5	(10.5-28.5)	18.0	(9.6-26.5)
Do not think it is effective	12.5	(7.1-17.9)	12.1	(4.7-19.4)	13.0	(5.1-20.9)
Waiting for a specific COVID-19 vaccine brand	1.4	(0.0-3.4)	1.4	(0.0-4.0)	1.5	(0.0-4.3)
Waiting to decide	11.7	(6.7-16.7)	13.0	(5.3-20.8)	10.3	(4.1-16.5)
Think he/she will get COVID-19	0.5	(0.0-1.4)	.	(.-)	0.9	(0.0-2.8)
Do not believe in vaccination	28.1	(21.0-35.1)	34.5	(24.1-45.0)	21.3	(12.0-30.6)
Other	27.0	(20.2-33.9)	19.6	(11.3-27.8)	35.0	(24.2-45.7)
Percentage who know where to get a COVID-19 tes	91.7	(90.5-93.0)	90.4	(88.5-92.3)	93.0	(91.4-94.6)

*The cooperation rate is the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews that involve the identification of and contact with an eligible respondent (refusal and break-off plus other).

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